Introduced by Senator Ashburn Senators Ashburn and Perata (Coauthor: Assembly Member Maze)

April 16, 2007

Senate Constitutional Amendment No. 9—A resolution to propose to the people of the State of California an amendment to the Constitution of the State, by amending Sections 4 and 8 of Article III thereof, by amending Sections 2, 3, 12, and 22 of, and adding Section 3.5 to, Article IV thereof, by amending Section 7 of Article XX thereof, and by amending Section 1 of, and adding Sections 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 to, Article XXI thereof, relating to the partial revision of the Constitution by the creation of and transfer of legislative duties to the Independent Redistricting Commission, terms and service of Members of the Legislature, and the state budget.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCA 9, as amended, Ashburn. Legislative reform: redistricting-and, term *limits*, salary, and contribution-limits reports.

(1) Existing provisions of the California Constitution prohibit a Senator from serving more than 2 terms of 4 years each and a Member of the Assembly from serving more than 3 terms of 2 years each.

This measure would instead allow a person, during his or her lifetime, to serve not more than 12 years in the Senate, the Assembly, or both, in any combination of terms, except that a Senator or Member of the Assembly in office on the effective date of this measure, whether or not he or she has previously served in the other house, would be eligible to serve a total of 12 consecutive years in the house in which he or she is currently serving.

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(2) The Constitution requires the Legislature to convene in regular session at noon on the first Monday in December of each even-numbered year, when each house shall immediately organize. The Constitution requires each session of the Legislature to adjourn sine die by operation of the Constitution at midnight on November 30 of the following even-numbered year.

This measure would require that the Legislature, when adjourned for a joint recess or during other appropriate times, conduct hearings and studies on the oversight of state government operations, evaluation of existing laws, and research and education about long-term improvement of state government. The measure would require that Members return to their districts during session for constituent meetings at least once each week and for town hall meetings at least quarterly. The measure would require that the Chief Clerk of the Assembly and the Secretary of the Senate report on a public Web site the number of oversight hearings, town hall meetings, and district constituent meetings attended by each Member. The measure would prohibit the Legislature from recessing or adjourning during the consideration of the state budget until it has passed and presented to the Governor the annual Budget Bill.

(3) Existing law, the Political Reform Act of 1974, limits the amount of moneys that a person may contribute to requires reporting of contributions made to a candidate for elective state office. Certain contributions are required to be reported to the Fair Political Practices Commission within 24 hours by the contributor and the recipient.

This-bill measure would prohibit require reports to the Fair Political Practices Commission concerning contributions totaling \$1,000 or more that are made to the Governor-and to Members or a Member of the Legislature during a specified state budget time period-and or a specified period prior to the end of the first 1st year-and or 2nd year of a legislative session. It would also-prohibit require the reporting of contributions in that amount that are made to the Governor during a specified period-after immediately following the end of the first 1st year and or 2nd year of a legislative session.

(3)

(4) Existing provisions of the California Constitution require the Legislature to pass a Budget Bill by June 15 of each year.

This measure would require *provide* that, if a Budget Bill is not passed by July 1, Members of the Legislature would not receive any salary from July 1 to the date a Budget Bill is passed and sent to the Governor.

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It would provide that once a budget bill is passed and sent to the Governor, a Member of the Legislature shall would retroactively receive any salary that was due during for that period of time.

This measure would also require that, if the Legislature fails to pass a Budget Bill by July 1 of any year, both houses of the Legislature meet daily until it does so.

(4)

(5) The California Constitution states the right of the people to hold their legislators accountable and, in implementation of that right, imposes certain reporting duties upon specified legislative leaders.

This measure would, in addition, state the right of the people to have reasonable opportunities to meet and communicate with Members of the Legislature and, in implementation of that right, would require Members of the Legislature to attend quarterly meetings and maintain regular office hours in their districts.

(5)

(6) The California Constitution requires the Legislature, in the year following the year in which the federal census is taken at the beginning of each decade, to adjust the boundary lines of the state Senate, Assembly, congressional, and State Board of Equalization districts in accordance with specified standards.

This measure would revise these provisions to apply only to the adjustment of the boundary lines of congressional districts.

This measure would, with respect to adjusting the boundary lines of Senate, Assembly, and State Board of Equalization districts, require the establishment of a pool of 55 candidates for appointment to an 11-member independent restricting commission, as nominated by a panel of 10 retired superior court judges or judges of the Court of Appeal appointed by the Judicial Council. This measure would authorize officers of the Senate and Assembly to each strike 4 candidates from the pool of nominees, would require the selection and appointment of the commission members from the remaining pool by the Fair Political Practices Commission, and would provide for the filling of vacancies on the commission and the removal of members.

This measure would provide that certain records of the redistricting commission are subject to the California Public Records Act and would require the commission to hold public hearings.

This measure would grant the California Supreme Court original and exclusive jurisdiction over all challenges to a redistricting plan adopted by the commission, and would authorize an affected elector to file a

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petition for a writ of mandate or prohibition within 45 days after the commission has certified the plan to the Secretary of State. The Supreme Court would be required to act expeditiously on the petition. If the plan is held to violate the California Constitution, the United States Constitution, or any federal statute, this measure would require the court to provide relief as it deems appropriate to remedy that violation and to otherwise accomplish the purposes of this measure.

This measure would require the Governor in 2010, and annually thereafter, to include in the Governor's Budget submitted to the Legislature an amount of funding sufficient to meet estimated redistricting expenses, and would require that the necessary appropriation be made in the annual Budget Act. It would authorize the commission to contract and to hire staff and consultants, including legal representation, for purposes of this measure. It would provide that the panelists and commissioners would receive a per diem of \$150 for each day of attendance at a meeting of the panel or commission and for actual and necessary traveling expenses.

Vote: $\frac{2}{3}$. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

- WHEREAS, This measure shall be known and may be cited as the "Term Limits and Legislative Reform Act"; and
- WHEREAS, The people of California find and declare all of the following:

 1 Under a constitutional measure approved in 1990, a Member
 - (1) Under a constitutional measure approved in 1990, a Member of the Legislature may serve a total of 14 years, consisting of no more than 6 years in the Assembly and no more than 8 years in the Senate;
 - (2) A variety of academic and public policy groups, some of which once supported term limits, have studied the effect of term limits in California and have concluded that our law is in need of reform to make government work for the people;
 - (3) California faces many complex and critical issues ranging from underperforming schools to global warming to inadequate health care. The legislation required to solve these problems can take years to develop and pass, and Members of the Legislature must spend substantial amounts of time acquiring the knowledge of these matters and obtaining the kind of support among their

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(4) Currently, term limits produce a turnover that does not allow legislators enough time to build and fully utilize leadership skills or expertise in making public policy, and thus our most knowledgeable and experienced legislators must leave the Assembly or the Senate prematurely, depriving us of their skill and expertise;

- (5) When legislators lack the necessary skills to engage in effective lawmaking, legislative process becomes much more heavily influenced by lobbyists, veteran staff, and officials from the executive branch of government;
- (6) The state should also reform term limits to put an end to constant campaign fundraising and to allow legislators to work together more effectively across partisan lines;
- (7) Legislative terms should be modified so that legislators have time to acquire the public policy and legislative expertise necessary to resolve the difficult issues facing the state, and to reduce the current rotation of legislators from one elected public office to another, which compromises institutional knowledge of public policy;
- (8) The National Conference of State Legislatures, Council of State Governments, and State Legislative Leaders Forum issued a report concluding that "the effects of term limits on Sacramento's policymaking processes have been more profound," including "a widespread sense in Sacramento that something needs to be done soon to provide more stability and expertise to the Legislature's policymaking process";
- (9) The state needs to reform California's term limits law to permit Members of the Legislature to remain in a single house for a longer period of time while reducing the total number of years that new legislators may serve; and

WHEREAS, The report entitled Joint Project on Term Limits 2004, by the National Conference of State Legislatures, Council of State Governments, and State Legislative Leaders' Foundation, additionally determined the following:

- (1) "In both houses, committees now screen out fewer bills assigned to them and are more likely to see their work rewritten at later stages";
- (2) "The practice of 'hijacking' Assembly bills—gutting their contents and amending them thoroughly in the Senate—has increased sharply";

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(3) "As a body, the Legislature is less likely to alter the Governor's budget, and its own budget process neither encourages fiscal discipline nor links legislators' requests to overall spending goals";

- (4) "Legislative oversight of the executive branch has declined significantly"; and
- (1) We are a state of more than 37 million people, of immense ethnic and cultural diversity, with an economy that ranks California as a world power among nation-states, and with public universities, research institutions, and facilities that are the envy of the world;
- (2) Because of our size, diversity, and complexity, California's future depends upon institutions of government that enjoy the trust and confidence of the people they serve, with the stability to make difficult and complex decisions;
- (3) A comprehensive report prepared by the distinguished Constitutional Revision Commission approximately 10 years ago concluded that changes to the legislative process were necessary to allow the Legislature to respond effectively and reliably to California's needs. These changes are long overdue and are badly needed to do all of the following:
- (A) Modernize the legislative process.
 - (B) Make the legislative process more effective and reliable.
- (C) Restore the public's confidence in the integrity of the legislative process;
- (4) The way the Legislature spends its time must be changed. Although each legislative session is two years long, Members of the Legislature currently do not spend sufficient time overseeing the operations of state government, evaluating existing laws, or learning about important emerging policy issues and challenges. The Legislature must conduct more oversight hearings and investigate the effectiveness of statutes or programs to determine if they are meeting their intended objectives;
- (5) Members of the Legislature currently do not spend sufficient time in the districts they represent meeting with constituents or holding town hall meetings so that they may learn more about voters' needs and views. Members of the Legislature should be required to meet regularly with those who vote them into office;
- (6) Instead of passing a budget on time, Members of the Legislature spend time in recess and not working to resolve their

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political differences. The Legislature should be required to stay in session without a break until a budget is adopted;

- (7) Voters should know that individual Members of the Legislature are working effectively and reliably on behalf of their constituents. One way to achieve this goal is to require legislative report cards for each Member of the Legislature, to document how he or she has spent his or her time while in session. Those report cards should be available on a public Web site;
- (8) Many of our state's widely respected scholars and public policy advocates, and the Constitution Revision Commission, have lamented that California's limits on legislative terms have sharply reduced the ability and inclination of lawmakers to address complex and long-term issues, thus making the Legislature less effective and reliable;
- (9) Californians cannot have confidence in a Legislature handicapped by inexperience and unable to devote itself to the State's long-term needs. Recent studies have shown that, since the enactment of the current term limits, the frequency of oversight hearings on the operations of state government and California's long-term needs has declined dramatically;
- (10) Revising the current limit of eight years in the State Senate and six years in the State Assembly so that Members of the Legislature may serve a total of 12 years in either house will allow the Members to focus on the long-term needs of the State, thus making the Legislature more effective and reliable;
- (11) There is an urgent need to improve public confidence in the Legislature and the Governor by ensuring that their actions are meant to benefit the state over the long term and that their actions are undertaken solely in the public interest;
- (12) Gifts from those who attempt to influence elected officials undermine the effectiveness of the legislative process. Because the Governor, in approving or vetoing a bill, acts in a legislative function, any reform to the legislative process must also address the role of the Governor. Members of the Legislature and the Governor must be banned from receiving any gifts whatsoever from lobbyists, lobbying firms, or those who employ or retain lobbyists, and from persons seeking contracts with the State;
- 38 (13) Campaign contributions have also impacted the 39 effectiveness of the legislative process. Lobbyists and lobbying 40 firms must be prohibited from making or arranging for campaign

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contributions to Members of the Legislature or the Governor while the state budget is under consideration; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of the people of California in approving this measure to do all of the following with respect to term limits:

- (1) Provide greater stability and expertise in the Legislature's policymaking process;
- (2) Reduce the total number of years that new Members may serve in the Legislature from 14 to 12, to prevent Members from becoming entrenched and to promote the opportunity for others to serve;
- (3) Permit legislators to gain the knowledge and experience necessary to tackle the critical issues facing our state;
- (4) Afford current members of the Senate and the Assembly the same opportunity to serve 12 years in a single house as newly elected members and preserve existing law regarding uncompleted terms; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, the Assembly concurring, That the Legislature of the State of California at its 2007–08 Regular Session commencing on the fourth day of December 2006, two-thirds of the membership of each house concurring, hereby proposes to the people of the State of California that the Constitution of the State be revised as follows:

- First—That Section 4 of Article III thereof is amended to read: SEC. 4. (a) Except as provided in subdivision (b) of this section or in subdivision (m) of Section 8, salaries of elected state officers may not be reduced during their term of office. Laws that set these salaries are appropriations.
- (b) Beginning on January 1, 1981, the base salary of a judge of a court of record shall equal the annual salary payable as of July 1, 1980, for that office had the judge been elected in 1978. The Legislature may prescribe increases in those salaries during a term of office, and it may terminate prospective increases in those salaries at any time during a term of office, but it shall not reduce the salary of a judge during a term of office below the highest level paid during that term of office. Laws setting the salaries of judges shall not constitute an obligation of contract pursuant to Section 9 of Article I or any other provision of law.
- 39 Second—That Section 8 of Article III thereof is amended to 40 read:

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SEC. 8. (a) The California Citizens Compensation Commission is hereby created and shall consist of seven members appointed by the Governor. The commission shall establish the annual salary and the medical, dental, insurance, and other similar benefits of state officers.

- (b) The commission shall consist of the following persons:
- (1) Three public members, one of whom has expertise in the area of compensation, such as an economist, market researcher, or personnel manager; one of whom is a member of a nonprofit public interest organization; and one of whom is representative of the general population and may include, among others, a retiree, homemaker, or person of median income. No person appointed pursuant to this paragraph may, during the 12 months prior to his or her appointment, have held public office, either elective or appointive, have been a candidate for elective public office, or have been a lobbyist, as defined by the Political Reform Act of 1974.
- (2) Two members who have experience in the business community, one of whom is an executive of a corporation incorporated in this State which ranks among the largest private sector employers in the State based on the number of employees employed by the corporation in this State and one of whom is an owner of a small business in this State.
- (3) Two members, each of whom is an officer or member of a labor organization.
- (c) The Governor shall strive insofar as practicable to provide a balanced representation of the geographic, gender, racial, and ethnic diversity of the State in appointing commission members.
- (d) The Governor shall appoint commission members and designate a chairperson for the commission not later than 30 days after the effective date of this section. The terms of two of the initial appointees shall expire on December 31, 1992, two on December 31, 1994, and three on December 31, 1996, as determined by the Governor. Thereafter, the term of each member shall be six years. Within 15 days of any vacancy, the Governor shall appoint a person to serve the unexpired portion of the term.
- (e) No current or former officer or employee of this State is eligible for appointment to the commission.
- 39 (f) Public notice shall be given of all meetings of the 40 commission, and the meetings shall be open to the public.

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(g) On or before December 3, 1990, the commission shall, by a single resolution adopted by a majority of the membership of the commission, establish the annual salary and the medical, dental, insurance, and other similar benefits of state officers. The annual salary and benefits specified in that resolution shall be effective on and after December 3, 1990.

Thereafter, by midnight on June 30 of each year, the commission shall, by a single resolution adopted by a majority of the membership of the commission, adjust the annual salary and the medical, dental, insurance, and other similar benefits of state officers. The annual salary and benefits specified in the resolution shall be effective on and after the first Monday of the next December.

- (h) In establishing or adjusting the annual salary and the medical, dental, insurance, and other similar benefits, the commission shall consider all of the following:
- (1) The amount of time directly or indirectly related to the performance of the duties, functions, and services of a state officer.
- (2) The amount of the annual salary and the medical, dental, insurance, and other similar benefits for other elected and appointed officers and officials in this State with comparable responsibilities, the judiciary, and, to the extent practicable, the private sector, recognizing, however, that state officers do not receive, and do not expect to receive, compensation at the same levels as individuals in the private sector with comparable experience and responsibilities.
- (3) The responsibility and scope of authority of the entity in which the state officer serves.
- (i) Except as provided in subdivision (m), until a resolution establishing or adjusting the annual salary and the medical, dental, insurance, and other similar benefits for state officers takes effect, each state officer shall continue to receive the same annual salary and the medical, dental, insurance, and other similar benefits received previously.
- (j) All commission members shall receive their actual and necessary expenses, including travel expenses, incurred in the performance of their duties. Each member shall be compensated at the same rate as members, other than the chairperson, of the Fair Political Practices Commission, or its successor, for each day engaged in official duties, not to exceed 45 days per year.

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(k) It is the intent of the Legislature that the creation of the commission should not generate new state costs for staff and services. The Department of Personnel Administration, the Board of Administration of the Public Employees' Retirement System, or other appropriate agencies, or their successors, shall furnish, from existing resources, staff and services to the commission as needed for the performance of its duties.

- (1) "State officer," as used in this section, means the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Controller, Insurance Commissioner, Secretary of State, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Treasurer, member of the State Board of Equalization, and Member of the Legislature.
- (m) If a budget bill is not passed by the Legislature and sent to the Governor by July 1, a Member of the Legislature shall not receive any salary from that date until a budget bill is passed and sent to the Governor. Once a budget bill is passed and sent to the Governor, a Member of the Legislature shall retroactively receive any salary that was due during that period of time.
- Third—That Section 2 of Article IV thereof is amended to read: SEC. 2. (a) (1) The Senate has a membership of 40 Senators elected for 4-year terms, 20 to begin every 2 years.
- (2) The Assembly has a membership of 80 members elected for 2-year terms.
- (3) The term of a Senator or a Member of the Assembly shall commence on the first Monday in December next following his or her election.
- (4) (A) Except as otherwise provided by subparagraph (B), during his or her lifetime a person may serve not more than 12 years in the Senate, the Assembly, or both, in any combination of terms.
- (B) A Member of the Senate or the Assembly, who is in office on the effective date of the measure adding this subparagraph may serve 12 consecutive years in the house in which he or she is currently serving, regardless of his or her prior years of service in the other house. Except as provided by Section 7 of Article XX, the 12 consecutive years include those years already served consecutively in the house in which the Member is currently serving.
- 39 (C) For purposes of this section, a person who serves in the 40 Senate or Assembly from the first Monday in December of one

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year to the first Monday in December of the following year shall be deemed to have thereby served one year.

- (b) Members of the Assembly shall be elected on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of even-numbered years unless otherwise prescribed by the Legislature. Senators shall be elected at the same time and places as Members of the Assembly.
- (c) A person is ineligible to be a Member of the Legislature unless both of the following conditions are met:
- (1) The person is an elector and has been a resident of the legislative district for one year, and a citizen of the United States and a resident of California for 3 years, immediately preceding the election.
- (2) Service of the full term of office to which the person is elected would not cause that person to exceed the limitation on years of service set forth in paragraph (4) of subdivision (a) and Section 7 of Article XX.
- (d) When a vacancy occurs in the Legislature the Governor immediately shall call an election to fill the vacancy.

Fourth—That Section 3 of Article IV thereof is amended to read: SEC. 3. (a) The Legislature shall convene in regular session at noon on the first Monday in December of each even-numbered year and each house shall immediately organize. Each session of the Legislature shall adjourn sine die by operation of the Constitution at midnight on November 30 of the following even-numbered year.

- (b) On extraordinary occasions the Governor by proclamation may cause the Legislature to assemble in special session. When so assembled it has power to legislate only on subjects specified in the proclamation but may provide for expenses and other matters incidental to the session.
- (c) When adjourned for a joint recess or during other appropriate times, the Legislature shall conduct hearings and studies with regard to oversight of state government operations, evaluation of existing laws, and research and education about the long-term improvement of state government.
- (d) While in session, a Member of the Legislature shall return to his or her district at least once each week for meetings with constituents. A Member of the Legislature shall also conduct, at

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least quarterly, town hall meetings within his or her district to assess the needs and views of his or her constituents.

- (e) The Chief Clerk of the Assembly and the Secretary of the Senate shall make available on a public Web site a legislative report card for each member of their respective houses. The legislative report card shall state the number of legislative oversight hearings, town hall meetings, and district constituent meetings attended by each member.
- (f) During the consideration of the state budget, the Legislature shall not recess or adjourn and shall stay in session until a budget bill has been passed and presented by the Governor pursuant to Section 12.

Fourth—

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Fifth—That Section 3.5 is added to Article IV thereof, to read: SEC. 3.5. (a) A person may not make A person who makes a contribution or contributions to the Governor or a Member of the Legislature as specified in subdivision (b) totaling in the aggregate one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or more shall report the contribution or contributions to the Fair Political Practices Commission or its successor agency within 24 hours of the time that the contribution or contributions were made. The Governor or a Member of the Legislature who receives a contribution or contributions from a person as specified in subdivision (b) totaling in the aggregate one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or more shall report the contribution or contributions to the commission or its successor agency within 24 hours of the time that the contribution or contributions were received. The commission shall, by regulation, specify the manner for reporting this information.

- (b) Subdivision (a) applies to contributions made as follows:
- (1) A contribution made to the Governor or a Member of the Legislature, and the Governor or a Member of the Legislature may not receive from any person, any contribution in any amount during the time period between the date in May that the Director of Finance, pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 13308 of the Government Code, or its successor statute, provides to the Legislature a revised estimate of the General Fund revenues for the fiscal year and the ensuing fiscal year, any proposals to reduce expenditures based on that estimate, and any proposed adjustments to the Governor's Budget, and the date of the enactment of the budget bill for the fiscal year commencing the following July 1.

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(b) A person may not make

(2) A contribution made to the Governor or a Member of the Legislature, and the Governor or a Member of the Legislature may not receive from any person, any contribution in any amount during the 30-day period before the date scheduled for the Legislature to adjourn in joint recess to reconvene in the second calendar year of the biennium of the legislative session or during the 30-day period before September 1 of the second calendar year of the biennium of the legislative session.

(c) A person may not make

(3) A contribution made to the Governor, and the Governor may not receive from any person, any contribution in any amount during the 30-day period following the date the Legislature adjourns in joint recess to reconvene in the second calendar year of the biennium of the legislative session or during the 30-day period following September 1 of the second calendar year of the biennium of the legislative session.

(d)

(c) For purposes of this section, "contribution" has and "person" have the same meaning as that term has in Section 82015 of the Government Code, or its successor statute. meanings as those terms have in Sections 82015 and 82047, respectively, of the Government Code, or in successor statutes.

Fifth—

Sixth—That Section 12 of Article IV thereof is amended to read: SEC. 12. (a) Within the first 10 days of each calendar year, the Governor shall submit to the Legislature, with an explanatory message, a budget for the ensuing fiscal year containing itemized statements for recommended state expenditures and estimated state revenues. If recommended expenditures exceed estimated revenues, the Governor shall recommend the sources from which the additional revenues should be provided.

- (b) The Governor and the Governor-elect may require a state agency, officer, or employee to furnish whatever information is deemed necessary to prepare the budget.
- (c) (1) The budget shall be accompanied by a budget bill itemizing recommended expenditures.
- (2) The budget bill shall be introduced immediately in each house by the persons chairing the committees that consider the budget.

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(3) The Legislature shall pass the budget bill by midnight on June 15 of each year. If the budget bill is not passed by July 1 of any year, both houses of the Legislature shall thereafter meet each calendar day until a budget bill is passed.

- (4) Until the budget bill has been enacted, the Legislature shall not send to the Governor for consideration any bill appropriating funds for expenditure during the fiscal year for which the budget bill is to be enacted, except emergency bills recommended by the Governor or appropriations for the salaries and expenses of the Legislature.
- (d) No bill except the budget bill may contain more than one item of appropriation, and that for one certain, expressed purpose. Appropriations from the General Fund of the State, except appropriations for the public schools, are void unless passed in each house by rollcall vote entered in the journal, two-thirds of the membership concurring.
- (e) The Legislature may control the submission, approval, and enforcement of budgets and the filing of claims for all state agencies.
- (f) For the 2004–05 fiscal year, or any subsequent fiscal year, the Legislature may not send to the Governor for consideration, nor may the Governor sign into law, a budget bill that would appropriate from the General Fund, for that fiscal year, a total amount that, when combined with all appropriations from the General Fund for that fiscal year made as of the date of the budget bill's passage, and the amount of any General Fund moneys transferred to the Budget Stabilization Account for that fiscal year pursuant to Section 20 of Article XVI, exceeds General Fund revenues for that fiscal year estimated as of the date of the budget bill's passage. That estimate of General Fund revenues shall be set forth in the budget bill passed by the Legislature.

Sixth-

Seventh—That Section 22 of Article IV thereof is amended to read:

SEC. 22. (a) It is the right of the people to hold their legislators accountable. To assist the people in exercising this right, at the convening of each regular session of the Legislature, the President pro Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the Assembly, and the minority leader of each house shall report to their house the goals and objectives of that house during that session and, at the close

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of each regular session, the progress made toward meeting those
 goals and objectives.

(b) It is the right of the people to have reasonable opportunities to meet and communicate with Members of the Legislature. To assist the people in exercising this right, each Member of the Legislature shall attend quarterly meetings with constituents in his or her district and shall maintain regularly scheduled and publicized office hours in one or more district offices.

Seventh-

 Eighth—That Section 7 of Article XX thereof is amended to read:

SEC. 7. The limitations prescribed by Section 2 of Article IV, Sections 2 and 11 of Article V, Section 2 of Article IX, and Section 17 of Article XIII apply only to terms or years of service to which persons are elected or appointed on or after November 6, 1990. Those limitations on terms and years of service shall not apply to any unexpired term to which a person is elected or appointed, or to any years served as part of that unexpired term, if the remainder of the term is less than half of the full term.

Eighth—

Ninth—That Section 1 of Article XXI thereof is amended to read:

SECTION 1. In the year following the year in which the national census is taken under the direction of Congress at the beginning of each decade, the Legislature shall adjust the boundary lines of Congressional districts in conformance with the following standards:

- (a) Each member of the Congress shall be elected from a single-member district.
 - (b) The population of all districts shall be reasonably equal.
 - (c) Every district shall be contiguous.
- (d) Districts shall be numbered consecutively commencing at the northern boundary of the State and ending at the southern boundary of the State.
- (e) The geographical integrity of any city, county, or city and county, or of any geographical region shall be respected to the extent possible without violating the requirements of any other subdivision of this section.
- Ninth—
- *Tenth*—That Section 2 is added to Article XXI thereof, to read:

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SEC. 2. (a) Each member of the Senate, Assembly, and the State Board of Equalization shall be elected from a single-member district.

- (b) By February 28 of each year ending in the number one, the Independent Redistricting Commission shall be established pursuant to this article to provide for the redistricting of Senate, Assembly, and State Board of Equalization districts. The redistricting of Senate, Assembly, and State Board of Equalization districts shall occur only once per decade. As used in this article, "commission" means the Independent Redistricting Commission.
- (c) The commission shall consist of 11 members, and all of the following shall apply:
- (1) No more than four members of the commission may be members of the same political party.
- (2) Of the eight commission members appointed pursuant to subdivisions (b) and (c) of Section 3, no more than two may reside in the same county.
- (3) Each commission member shall be registered to vote in this State, and shall have been continuously registered with the same political party, or as unaffiliated with a political party, for not less than three years immediately preceding his or her appointment.
- (4) Each commission member shall commit to applying this article in an honest, independent, and impartial fashion, and to upholding public confidence in the integrity of the redistricting process.
- (d) (1) A person is not eligible to serve on the commission if, within the three years immediately preceding the date of his or her appointment, the person, or a member of his or her immediate family, has done any of the following:
- (A) Been appointed or elected to, or have been a candidate for, any other public office.
- (B) Served as an officer of a political party, or as an officer, employee, or paid consultant of a campaign committee of a candidate for elective public office.
- (C) Been a registered lobbyist, or an employee of, or a paid consultant to, a registered lobbyist.
- (2) Legislative staff and consultants, persons under a contract with the Legislature, and any person who has contributed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) or more to, has a financial relationship with, or is an immediate family member of, the Governor, a

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1 Member of the Legislature, or a member of the State Board of 2 Equalization are not eligible to serve as members of the 3 commission.

- (3) A member of the commission shall be ineligible, during his or her term of office and for three years thereafter, to hold elective public office in this State or to register as a lobbyist.
- (4) For purposes of this subdivision, a member of a person's "immediate family" is one with whom the person has a bona fide relationship established through blood, marriage, or adoption, including, but not limited to, parents, children, siblings, and in-laws.

Tenth—

Eleventh—That Section 3 is added to Article XXI thereof, to read:

- SEC. 3. (a) (1) The Judicial Council, panelists, Members of the Legislature, and the Fair Political Practices Commission, or its successor agency, shall work to ensure that the panelists, pool of candidates, and commissioners, as applicable, are representative of this State's racial, ethnic, cultural, geographic, and gender diversity.
- (2) A panel of 10 retired superior court judges or judges of the Court of Appeal, appointed by the Judicial Council, shall nominate candidates for appointment to the commission. The Judicial Council shall adopt rules and procedures for appointing qualified panelists and for selecting alternates in the event that a panelist is unable to carry out his or her duties.
- (3) Of the 10 panelists, 5 shall be registered voters affiliated with each of the two largest political parties in California based on party registration.
- (4) Each panelist shall have been continuously registered in this State with the same political party for not less than three years immediately preceding his or her appointment.
- (5) By January 8 of each year ending in the number one, the panel shall establish a pool of qualified persons who are willing to serve on the commission, and submit a list of the names of those persons to the President pro Tempore of the Senate, the Minority Floor Leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the Assembly, the Minority Floor Leader of the Assembly, and the Fair Political
- 39 Practices Commission or its successor agency.

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- (6) The pool of candidates shall consist of 55 nominees, with 20 nominees from each of the two largest political parties in this State based on party registration, and 15 who are not registered with either of those two political parties.
- (b) No later than January 31 of each year ending in the number one, the President pro Tempore of the Senate, the Minority Floor Leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the Assembly and the Minority Floor Leader of the Assembly may each strike from the pool of candidates up to four candidates. Thereafter, the Fair Political Practices Commission or its successor agency shall, under a process that is open to public disclosure, appoint the 11 commission members, by random selection from the remaining pool of candidates, including four members from each of the two largest political parties in this State and three who are not registered with either of those two political parties.
- (c) Any vacancy in the 11 commission positions described in subdivision (b) that remains as of March 1 of a year ending in the number one shall be filled from the pool of nominees by the panel of retired judges described in subdivision (a).
- (d) The 11 members of the commission shall, by affirmative vote of six or more members, select one of the three members appointed pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) to serve as the chair of the commission.

Eleventh—

- Twelfth—That Section 4 is added to Article XXI thereof, to read: SEC. 4. (a) After having been served written notice and provided with an opportunity for a response, a member of the commission may be removed by the Governor, with the concurrence of two-thirds of the Senate, for substantial neglect of duty, gross misconduct in office, or inability to discharge the duties of office.
- (b) (1) If a member of the commission vacates his or her office or is removed pursuant to subdivision (a) prior to the completion of his or her term, the panel of retired judges appointed pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 3 shall fill the vacancy from the pool of nominees selected pursuant to that subdivision within the first 30 days after the vacancy occurs.
- (2) The nominee chosen to fill the vacancy shall be of the same political party membership or nonpartisan status, as the case may be, held by the vacating member at the time of his or her

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appointment. The panel shall comply with paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of Section 3 in filling that vacancy. If the vacating member was the chair of the commission, the commission shall select a new chair.

(3) The newly appointed member shall serve the remainder of the original term of the vacating member.

Twelfth—

Thirteenth—That Section 5 is added to Article XXI thereof, to read:

- SEC. 5. (a) The activities of the commission shall be subject to all of the following:
- 12 (1) Six members of the commission, one of whom may be the chair or vice chair, shall constitute a quorum.
 - (2) Six or more affirmative votes shall be required for any official action.
 - (3) The commission shall comply with the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act (Article 9 (commencing with Section 11120) of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code), or its successor statute. The commission shall provide not less than 14 days' public notice for each meeting.
 - (4) The records of the commission pertaining to redistricting, and all data considered by the commission for the purposes of redistricting, are subject to the California Public Records Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 6250) of Division 7 of Title 1 of the Government Code), or its successor statute, and are open to inspection by members of the public upon request as provided by the act, except that the commission may withhold from public inspection preliminary drafts, notes, and communications between or among commission members, staff, and consultants.
 - (5) Any oral or written communication with a commission member outside of a public hearing, other than by staff or by legal counsel, is prohibited as to any matter on which the commission is required to meet under paragraph (3). This paragraph does not prohibit any communication between commission members that is permitted by the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, or its successor statute, to occur outside of a public hearing.
- 38 (b) The duties of the commission include establishing Senate, 39 Assembly, and State Board of Equalization districts pursuant to a

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mapping process for each district in accordance with each of the following goals, prioritized according to the following order:

- (1) Senate, Assembly, and State Board of Equalization districts shall each have equal population with other districts for the same office, to the extent practicable, in compliance with the United States Constitution.
- (2) District boundary lines shall comply with the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 1971 and following).
- (3) District boundary lines shall be geographically contiguous to the extent practicable.
- (4) District boundary lines shall respect communities of interest to the extent practicable.
- (5) District boundary lines shall use visible geographic features and city and county boundaries to the extent practicable.
- (6) District boundary lines shall be geographically compact to the extent practicable.
- (c) Party registration and voting history data shall be excluded from the mapping process. The places of residence of incumbents or candidates may not be identified or considered in the creation of a map pursuant to subdivision (b).
- (d) (1) The commission shall establish and implement an open and noticed hearing process for public input. The public hearing process shall include at least the following three stages: (A) hearings to receive public input before the commission draws any maps; (B) hearings following each drawing and display of proposed maps; and (C) hearings following the drawing and display of the proposed final maps.
- (2) The commission shall propose and implement a plan to provide the public with access to United States census data and to make software available to the public for drawing maps and providing input through the public hearing process. At the first two stages, the commission shall display the maps created pursuant to subdivision (b) of Senate, Assembly, and State Board of Equalization districts to the public for comment, in a manner designed to achieve the widest public dissemination reasonably possible, and public comment shall be taken for at least 30 days from the date of public display. Either the Senate or the Assembly, or both, may act within this period to make recommendations to the commission by majority or minority report, which recommendations shall be considered by the commission.

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- (e) The commission shall, after consideration of public comments and recommendations made by the Senate or Assembly pursuant to subdivision (d), and having made every effort to draw the proposed maps in compliance with the goals listed in subdivision (b), establish the boundaries of the final maps for Senate, Assembly, and State Board of Equalization districts by November 15 of the year ending in one, and shall certify those districts to the Secretary of State as its final redistricting plan. The approval of the final boundaries shall be by majority vote of the membership of the commission, and requires that one or more votes for approval be cast by members of the commission registered with each of the two largest political parties in this State based on party registration, and that one or more votes for approval be cast by members of the commission who are not registered with either of these two political parties.
- (f) The commission shall issue, with its final redistricting plan, a report that explains the basis on which the commission made its decisions in achieving compliance with the goals listed in subdivision (b), particularly where compliance with one goal resulted in less than full compliance with another. The report shall define or describe, as applicable, the terms and standards used in drawing the maps.

Thirteenth—

Fourteenth—That Section 6 is added to Article XXI thereof, to read:

- SEC. 6. (a) In 2010, and annually thereafter, the Governor shall include in the Governor's Budget submitted to the Legislature pursuant to Section 12 of Article IV an amount of funding sufficient to meet the estimated expenses of the subsequent redistricting process occurring pursuant to this article, and shall also make adequate office space available for the operation of the panel and commission. The necessary appropriation shall be made in the annual budget act.
- (b) The panel and commission, with fiscal oversight from the Department of Finance or its successor, shall have procurement and contracting authority and may hire staff and consultants, exempt from the civil service requirements of Article VII, for the purposes of this article, including legal representation. The commission shall establish criteria for the hiring and removal of

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staff and consultants, and may apply subdivision (d) of Section 2 to the hiring of staff and consultants to the extent practicable.

- (c) The commission has standing in legal actions regarding a redistricting plan or to establish whether funds or other resources provided for the operation of the commission are adequate. The commission has sole authority to determine whether the Attorney General, or legal counsel hired or selected by the commission, shall represent the people of the State in the commission's legal defense of a redistricting plan.
- (d) (1) The Supreme Court has original and exclusive jurisdiction in all proceedings in which the validity or interpretation of a final redistricting plan adopted by the commission is at issue.
- (2) Any affected elector may file a petition for a writ of mandate or writ of prohibition to challenge a final redistricting plan within 45 days after the plan has been certified by the commission to the Secretary of State, to bar the Secretary of State from implementing the plan on the grounds that the plan violates this Constitution, the United States Constitution, or any federal statute.
- (3) The court shall act expeditiously on a petition filed under paragraph (2). If the court determines that a final redistricting plan adopted by the commission violates this Constitution, the United States Constitution, or any federal statute, the court shall fashion the relief that it deems appropriate to remedy that violation and otherwise accomplish the purposes of this article.

Fourteenth-

Fifteenth—That Section 7 is added to Article XXI thereof, to read:

- SEC. 7. (a) A member of the panel or the commission shall receive a per diem of \$150 for each day that he or she is in attendance at a meeting of the panel or commission, as applicable, and reimbursement pursuant to statute for actual and necessary traveling expenses incurred in connection with the duties performed for the commission or panel. For purposes of reimbursement of travel expenses under this subdivision, a member's residence is deemed to be the member's post of duty.
- (b) The commission may not meet or incur expenses after a final redistricting plan is approved and certified pursuant to subdivision (e) of Section 5, except with respect to any pending litigation or approval by the federal government concerning the plan, to revise districts if required by court order, or if the number

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of Senate, Assembly, or State Board of Equalization districts is changed.

- (c) For purposes of this article, "day" means a calendar day, except that if the final day of a period within which an act is to be performed is a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, the period is extended to the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday.
 - (d) This article is self-executing.
- (e) The provisions of this article are severable. If any provision of this article or its application is held invalid, that invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application.

Fifteenth—

Sixteenth—That the provisions of this measure are severable. If any provision of this measure or its application is held invalid, that invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application.

Sixteenth-

Seventeenth—That in the event that this measure and another measure or measures relating to the number of years or terms that a Member of the Legislature may serve, appear on the same statewide election ballot, the provisions of the other measure or measures shall be deemed to be in conflict with this measure. If this measure receives a greater number of affirmative votes, the provision provisions of this measure shall prevail in their entirety, and the provisions of the other measure or measures shall be null and void.